

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, PFOR KU, GE

SUBJECT: KUWAIT COMMERCE MINISTER TO VISIT EAST GERMANY

1. KUWAIT'S MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY ABD AL-WAHAB AL-NAFISI, IN PRESS CONFERENCE REPORTED LOCALLY APRIL 13, SAID HE WILL VISIT EAST GERMANY SOON. HE DISCLOSED PLANS TO CONCLUDE AN ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL AGREEMENT AT THAT TIME. APPARENTLY THE QUESTION OF ENTERING INTO SUCH AN AGREEMENT WAS RAISED DURING RECENT VISIT TO KUWAIT OF THE EAST GERMAN PRIME MINISTER.

2. COMMENT: NAFISI'S VISIT WILL FOLLOW BY A FEW MONTHS THAT OF MINISTER OF FINANCE ATEEQI TO YUGOSLAVIA, HUNGARY AND ROMANIA. KUWAIT'S FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH THOSE THREE COUNTRIES HAVE BEEN EXPANDING RECENTLY. IT APPEARS LIKELY THAT GOK NOW READY TO LOOK AT POSSIBILITIES OF DOING BUSINESS WITH EAST GERMANY AS WELL. IT IS UNLIKELY, HOWEVER, THAT MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY WILL BE AUTHORIZED TO DISCUSS SERIOUSLY ANYTHING INVOLVING OIL OR FINANCE OF ANY SIGNIFICANCE, AND IN THIS RESPECT HIS VISIT TO EAST GERMANY IS UNLIKELY TO CARRY THE SAME WEIGHT AS THAT OF ATEEQI TO THE THREE SOUTHEAST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES HE VISITED SEVERAL WEEKS AGO. STOLTZFUS

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